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NEW YORK STATE DEPT. OF HEALTH

A COMPARISON OF THE DEATH RATES
OF [illegible] AND [illegible] FOREIGN-BORN WHITE
MEN IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK
DURING 1916

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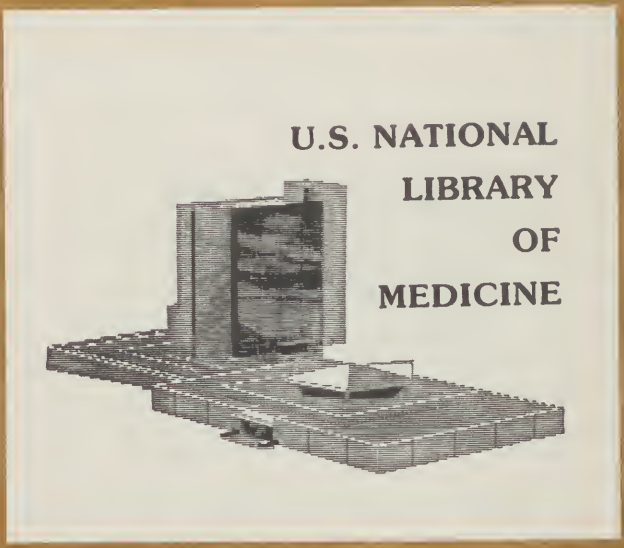

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A COMPARISON OF THE BIRTH RATES OF NATIVE AND OF FOREIGN-BORN WHITE WOMEN IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK DURING 1916

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A COMPARISON OF THE BIRTH RATES OF NATIVE AND OF FOREIGN-BORN WHITE WOMEN IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK DURING 1916

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The following matter is not intended as a scientific study of the relative fecundity of native and of foreign-born women. This will be immediately apparent to all students of the question. The first essential of a study of this nature would be a careful and accurate census of the population according to nativity, race, sex, age and marital condition, which, of course, is not available at the present time. Moreover, the long time which has elapsed since the 1910 census and the abnormal situation existing since August, 1914, preclude reliable estimates of the population based on that census.

The tables herein presented were compiled primarily as an aid to the officials of the New York State Department of Health in their efforts to improve birth registration, to control the practice of midwifery, and to reduce the infant mortality. In this regard they have practical value which seemingly warrants their publication.

According to the annual reports of the Commissioner General of Immigration, approximately 28 per cent of all immigrant aliens entering this country in recent years have done so with the intention of settling in the State of New York. In the case of those coming from Southern Europe, Austria-Hungary and Russia the percentage is probably even higher.

Bearing in mind the fact that these people are generally poor, illiterate, and ignorant of the first principles of sanitation, the effect which a large percentage of them in a community might have on the health of that community is readily conceivable. Particularly is this likely to be true in regard to the health of infants during their first year of life. Accordingly, as a first step in the direction of ascertaining just how great an effect, the existence of this element in the population has on infant mortality, a comparison of the birth rates of the native and foreign-born elements has been attempted in the tables following; birth rates and birth registration bearing a most important relation to the subject.

These tables all relate to New York State, excluding New York City. This is due to the fact that no certificates of births, deaths or marriages, either in original or copied form, are forwarded to the State Department of Health, the New York City Department of Health compiling and publishing its own statistics and forwarding only monthly and annual

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reports to the State authorities. The data contained in these reports are usually in such form as not to permit their inclusion in the tabulations.

Efforts have been made to make these tables as self-explanatory as possible; consequently no extended analysis is contemplated and attention will be directed only to the most important features of each.

The opinion has long been prevalent that the birth rate of foreign-born women is much greater than that of native women. Reliable data as to the exact difference, however, are very scarce and particularly so regarding the State of New York.

Table I is an attempt to estimate the birth rates of the most important nationalities.

Table I

BIRTHS TO WHITE MOTHERS ACCORDING TO NATIVITY OF MOTHER

NATIONALITY OF MOTHER	Estimated population in 1916	Number of births	Number of births per 1,000 estimated population	Crude birth rate of native country according to last report before war	Date of last report before the war
Total white	4,643,786	*102,834	22.1	.....	.....
Native white	3,777,685	64,889	17.2	.....	.....
Foreign-born white	866,101	37,914	43.8	.....	.....
English, Scotch and Welsh	97,695	1,869	19.1	†24.1 ††25.5	1913
Irish	124,467	1,879	15.1	22.8	1913
German (includes German Poles)	171,435	2,421	14.1	27.5	1913
Italian	141,845	12,998	91.6	31.7	1913
Russian (includes Finland and Russian Poland)	82,195	7,281	88.6	44.0	1909
Austro-Hungarian (includes Austrian Poles)	81,256	7,307	89.9	‡31.3 ‡‡36.3	1912
Canadian	104,270	2,219	21.3	§24.0	1913
Other foreign-born	62,938	1,940	30.8	.....	.....

* Nativity of mother unknown in the case of 31 births.
† England and Wales.
†† Scotland.
‡ Austria.
‡‡ Hungary.
§ Province of Ontario.

This table shows the number of births per thousand total population of each of the principal nationalities living in New York State, according to the nativity of the mothers.

The population estimates are based on the Federal Census of 1910 and the New York State Census of 1915, the total population for 1916

being computed according to the rate of arithmetical increase between the two censuses. The proportions of the different nationalities are assumed to be the same as existed in 1910.

From a strictly scientific standpoint these figures are not thoroughly reliable. For all practical purposes, however, there seems to be no adequate reason why they should not be used. If anything the birth rates of the foreign-born are probably too low, since it is likely that the percentage of each foreign nationality to the total population was not as great in 1916 as it was in 1910, owing to the practical cessation of all immigration during the years 1915 and 1916. This would probably more than offset any increase that may have occurred in the foreign population of the State from an influx of these people from other states, attracted by better industrial conditions, etc. It may therefore, be assumed, that whatever error there may be, would, if corrected, but emphasize the point that the birth rate of native women in New York State is so low that it is undoubtedly as low, or lower, than that of France, and that the birth rate of the foreign-born woman is almost twice as great as that of the native woman.

The above birth rates (17.2 for native women and 43.8 for foreign women) are not fairly comparable owing to the great difference between the age constitution of each element. There is not only a greater proportion of married women from 15 to 45 years of age among the foreign class (according to the 1910 U. S. Census it amounted to 70 per cent as against 52 per cent for native women) but a larger percentage of them are between the ages of 21 and 30, the period of greatest productivity. This is well illustrated by Table II.

Table II

A Comparison of the Crude, Legitimate and Illegitimate Birth Rates of Native and Foreign-born Mothers

	Birth Rates		
	Births to native born mothers	Births to foreign born mothers	Excess percentage of births to foreign born mothers
Number of births per 1,000 inhabitants.....	17.2	43.7	154
Number of legitimate births per 1,000 married women 15–44 years of age.....	137.1	253.2	85
Number of illegitimate births per 1,000 single, widowed and divoreed women, 15–44 years old.....	2.1	3.2	52

After a perusal of this table it is clear that instead of the birth rate of the foreign woman being 154 per cent greater, as evidenced by the crude birth rates, it is in reality only 85 per cent greater when computed according to the number of married women of childbearing age.

Before proceeding further it is interesting to compare the rates prevailing in the State of New York in 1916 with those estimated by Dr. R. R. Kuczynski in his well-known study of the birth rates of native and of foreign-born women in Massachusetts in 1895.

Table III

A Comparison of the Birth Rates in Massachusetts in 1895 and in New York in 1916

	Massachusetts, 1895	New York, 1916
Births per 1,000 native population	17.03	17.2
Births per 1,000 foreign-born population	52.16	43.7
Births per native adult female population	*48.78	†48.6
Births per foreign-born females	*107.29	†104.2
Births per married native women of child-bearing age	*142.47	†137.1
Births per married foreign-born women	*251.76	†253.2

* Ages 14–50.
† Ages 15–44.

The remarkable similarity in the above rates seems to prove that the amount of inaccuracy in the population estimates for New York State in 1916 is probably not very great, and that they are apparently quite trustworthy for all practical purposes.

Reverting to Table I, the features of interest that at once attract the attention are the extraordinarily high rates of the Italians, Russians and Austro-Hungarians (which amount to from 100 per cent to almost 200 per cent higher here than in the mother countries) and the exceptionally low rates of the Irish and the Germans. A study of the statistics of immigration as contained in the reports of the Commissioner General of Immigration of the United States will reveal the probable cause of these remarkable differences. Of the total number of Italians, Austro-Hungarians and Russians, who were admitted into this country since July 1, 1880, 75.3 per cent, 73.1 per cent and 77 per cent respectively, arrived here during the period from July 1, 1900 to June 30, 1914, while of the total number of Germans admitted since 1880, 60 per cent arrived *prior* to June 30, 1890 and only 19.4 per cent since July 1, 1900. The

exact data regarding the Irish were not obtainable from the records from which the above figures were extracted* but it is very probable that the percentages are more or less similar to those of the Germans, assuming that the difference of age upon arrival does not differ materially between the two nationalities. This means that the three nationalities in New York State first mentioned are mostly composed of young adults in the most productive period of life, while the Germans and Irish are mostly people past the childbearing age, or at least in the later stages of that period when the birth rate is much lower. It is notable that the Canadians and British have lower birth rates in New York than in their respective countries of birth. This may be due to the greater similarity of their age constitution to that of the native class and to their greater inclination and ability to adopt the American standard of living.

Attention is directed to the fact that 73.1 per cent of all births to foreign-born women were to Italian, Russian and Austro-Hungarian mothers and that these races accounted for nearly 27 per cent of *all* the births occurring in the State outside of New York City, although they furnished less than 7 per cent of the total population.

In view of the foregoing, it appears obvious that in order to compute the degree of completeness of the birth registration of a district, greater attention should be given to the constitution of the population and particularly to the number of Italians, Russians, Austro-Hungarians and Poles residing in the district. A method more or less practiced, of settling on a certain standard rate, such as 25 births per thousand total population (which may be said to be the average for most of the civilized nations) and assuming thereby that any community falling below that rate is deficient in birth registration, is likely to be very inaccurate and misleading. A community containing a large percentage of these peoples is bound to have a birth rate much in excess of 25 to the thousand population and a community comprised almost entirely of people of native birth is quite certain to have a birth rate of less than that figure.

In order to test the truth of this assertion a glance at Table IV will be instructive.

It will be noted that of those cities having a crude birth rate of less than the average (26), only two, Mt. Vernon and New Rochelle, had in 1910 proportions of Italians, Russians and Austro-Hungarians greater than 6.8 per cent. On the other hand the lowest percentage of these people found in a city with a birth rate above the State average was 7.6 per cent. The average percentage of Russians, Italians and Austro-Hungarians in the populations of the first named group of cities is 6.3 per cent against 10.2 per cent for the latter group.

* Commissioner General of Immigration's Report June 30, 1914

Table IV

BIRTHS IN CITIES OF 25,000 POPULATION OR OVER

CITIES	Estimated population in 1916	Number of living births in 1916	Crude birth rates	Per cent of population Italian, Russian and Austro-Hungarian (in 1910)	Principal other foreign nationalities in population (in 1910)	Per cent of white females 15–44 years old who were foreign-born (in 1910)	Per cent of total births recorded which were incident to foreign women	BIRTHS PER 1,000 WOMEN 15 TO 44 YEARS OF AGE		Per cent of all females 15–44 years old who were married in (1910)
								Native	Foreign born	
Whole state	4,696,861	103,530	22.0	6.5	.....	19.2	36.6	72.0	177.3	55.2
All cities (over 25,000 inhabitants)	1,737,031	45,110	26.0	9.1	.....	26.8	47.7	69.3	174.8	51.1
Kingston	26,439	469	17.7	4.7	German-Irish	10.6	20.9	56.8	129.3	46.2
Troy	75,218	1,336	17.8	5.6	Irish	18.3	31.9	51.0	106.2	40.4
Newburgh	27,878	533	19.1	3.2	Irish-British	16.2	30.8	59.6	136.1	48.1
Albany	109,503	2,283	20.8	5.3	German-Irish	15.5	36.5	56.1	175.9	46.0
Jamestown	39,031	827	21.2	3.4	Swedish	34.8	46.4	66.7	108.0	55.1
Poughkeepsie	33,646	759	22.6	6.8	Irish	15.3	40.1	60.4	221.6	50.2
New Rochelle	32,264	732	22.7	13.0	Irish-British-German	36.8	51.8	67.6	120.7	54.5
Mt. Vernon	38,865	891	22.9	11.6	German	29.7	54.2	54.6	152.4	51.7
Elmira	40,664	983	24.2	4.9	Irish	11.5	17.9	84.2	141.8	49.8
Watertown	26,916	685	25.4	4.2	Canadian-British	24.8	31.2	87.4	121.2	57.2
Schenectady	81,767	2,135	26.1	12.6	German	28.4	54.7	65.7	199.4	63.5
Syracuse	146,734	3,851	26.2	8.4	German	21.3	41.9	73.6	195.2	53.0
Rochester	256,814	6,825	26.6	9.2	German-Canadian	26.6	48.6	69.0	180.1	50.8
Auburn	32,010	854	26.7	9.8	Irish-British	21.3	54.6	59.7	266.3	52.2
Yonkers	93,020	2,504	26.9	17.2	British-Irish	40.6	59.8	67.6	146.9	52.3
Binghamton	54,667	1,508	27.6	7.6	Irish	16.5	47.7	62.5	287.9	51.2
Buffalo	460,413	13,064	28.4	8.1	German-Canadian	29.2	47.3	80.8	175.4	52.2
Amsterdam	34,866	993	28.5	20.9	German-Irish	39.8	65.9	55.9	163.4	50.0
Utica	81,731	2,441	29.9	15.5	German-Irish	30.1	60.8	62.6	225.7	49.7
Niagara Falls	44,585	1,437	32.2	13.9	Canadian-British	44.7	64.9	76.8	178.1	59.7

It is possible that in the cases of Mt. Vernon and New Rochelle there has been a considerable decrease in the proportions which these people form of the respective populations since 1910. Evidence of this fact seems supplied in the unusually low birth rates prevailing in each city among the women of foreign birth, who were 15 to 44 years old.

Judging from a comparison of the exceptionally high birth rates of the foreign-born women, 15 to 44 years old, with the comparatively small number of Italians, etc., resident in 1910 in the cities of Utica, Binghamton, Poughkeepsie and Auburn, it is probable that the proportion of these people has greatly increased in these cities since 1910 through improved industrial conditions or from other causes.

The rates in this column (births per 1,000 women 15 to 44 years of age) have been computed under the assumption that the same percentages of women of these ages existed in 1916 as in 1910. For reasons already stated, however, they are not thoroughly reliable and must be taken with much reserve, as is quite apparent from the instances cited above. It is nevertheless interesting to note the generally low birth rates of the foreign-born women from 15 to 44 years of age, in those cities which shelter a small percentage of the people under discussion and the generally high rates prevailing in those cities containing a large number of them.

Special instances of the importance of carefully considering the composition of the population before passing on the degree of completeness of its birth registration, are the four cities with the lowest crude birth rates, Albany, Troy, Newburgh and Kingston. These cities have long been considered to be greatly deficient in this regard, but it is quite evident from the above table that while it may be true that there is considerable laxity in this direction in these cities, it is by no means the only reason for their low birth rates, the principal cause probably lying in the composition of their female populations. Each of these cities has few Italian, Russian or Austro-Hungarian residents; each has a small percentage of foreign-born females of child-bearing age; in each the number of married women is much below the average; while the most numerous foreign races in each are those of low fertility, namely, Irish, British or German.

The question that naturally arises from a study of the preceding tables is, "How does the foreign-born mother compare with the native mother in her ability to rear her children after they are brought into the world?" Some evidence regarding this question is furnished by Table V which purports to be a study of the 1916 living births according to the number of children born to and the number of children living to each mother at the time of and including the 1916 birth.

Table V

A Comparative Study of the Fecundity of Native and Foreign-born White Mothers Together With Their Success in Rearing Their Children as Evidenced by the Births Reported in 1916

Order of Birth	Nativity of mother	Mothers		Total Number Born and Total Number Living at Time of and Including 1916 Living Birth			Average number living to each mother	Mothers Successful in Rearing All Children Born to Them	
		Numbers	Per cent of total	Number born	Number living	Per cent living of total number born		Number	Per cent
All births	Native	64,847	100.0	184,875	165,291	89.4	2.6	51,459	79.3
	Foreign	37,855	100.0	143,281	120,677	84.2	3.2	25,117	66.4
1st child	Native	21,240	32.8	21,240	21,240	100.0	1.0	21,240	100.0
	Foreign	7,329	19.4	7,329	7,329	100.0	1.0	7,329	100.0
2d child	Native	15,886	24.5	31,772	29,583	93.1	1.9	13,697	86.2
	Foreign	7,676	20.3	15,352	14,166	92.3	1.8	6,490	84.5
3d child	Native	10,062	15.5	30,186	27,432	90.9	2.7	7,620	75.7
	Foreign	6,129	16.2	18,387	16,459	89.5	2.7	4,453	72.7
4th child	Native	6,215	9.6	24,860	22,098	88.9	3.6	3,998	64.3
	Foreign	4,709	12.4	18,836	16,398	87.1	3.5	2,823	60.0
5th child	Native	4,070	6.3	20,350	17,814	87.5	4.4	2,262	55.5
	Foreign	3,645	9.6	18,225	15,467	84.9	4.2	1,741	47.7
6th child	Native	2,626	4.0	15,756	13,566	86.1	5.2	1,208	46.1
	Foreign	2,673	7.1	16,038	13,292	82.9	5.0	1,050	39.3
7th child	Native	1,734	2.7	12,138	10,387	85.6	6.0	677	39.1
	Foreign	2,005	5.3	14,035	11,332	80.9	5.7	611	30.5
8th child	Native	1,135	1.8	9,080	7,684	84.6	6.8	379	33.4
	Foreign	1,372	3.6	10,976	8,685	79.1	6.3	323	23.5
9th child	Native	729	1.1	6,661	5,360	81.7	7.4	183	25.2
	Foreign	903	2.4	8,127	6,242	76.8	6.9	170	18.8
10th child	Native	483	.7	4,830	3,854	79.8	8.0	101	20.9
	Foreign	568	1.5	5,680	4,210	74.1	7.4	70	12.3

11th child	Native	288	.4	3,168	2,535	80.0	8 8	52	18.0
	Foreign	365	1.0	4,015	2,944	73.3	8.1	38	10 4
12th child	Native	177	.3	2,124	1,712	80.6	9.7	26	14.7
	Foreign	229	.6	2,748	1,852	67.4	8.1	15	6.6
13th child	Native	106	.2	1,378	1,046	75.9	9.9	11	10.4
	Foreign	118	.3	1,534	1,046	68.2	8.9	2	1.7
14th child	Native	51	.1	714	508	71.1	10.0	2	3.9
	Foreign	75	.2	1,050	670	63.8	8.9	1	1.3
15th child	Native	23	.....	345	225	65.2	9.8	1	4.4
	Foreign	32	.1	480	308	64.2	9.6	.....	.....
16th child	Native	11	.....	176	127	72.2	11.5	2	18.2
	Foreign	12	.....	192	121	63.0	10.1	1	8.3
17th child	Native	9	.....	153	99	64.7	11.0	.....	.....
	Foreign	7	.....	119	60	50.4	8.6	.....	.....
18th child	Native	1	.....	18	12	66.7	12.0	.....	.....
	Foreign	2	.....	36	20	55.6	10.0	.....	.....
19th child	Native	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Foreign	3	.....	57	33	57.9	11.0	.....	.....
20th child	Native	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Foreign	1	.....	20	8	40.0	8.0	.....	.....
21st child	Native	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Foreign	1	.....	21	5	23.8	5.0	.....	.....
24th child	Native	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Foreign	1	.....	24	10	41.7	10.0	.....	.....
26th child	Native	1	.....	26	9	34.6	9.0	.....	.....
	Foreign	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

The outstanding feature of this table is the manner in which the native mother excels the mother of foreign birth in her ability to rear her children and the way in which this superiority increases proportionately to the number of children born to each. Although among mothers who had given birth to two children, the foreign-born mothers had lost only about one in a hundred children more than the native, among those who had borne thirteen, the foreign-born mothers had lost nearly eight in a hundred more than the native mothers.

But as already mentioned, it must be remembered, that this tabulation refers to the number of children living at the moment of birth and no account is taken of those dying shortly afterward. Since the infant mortality amongst the foreign element is considerably higher than that for the native part of the population, very likely the above difference in percentage would be augmented if these deaths were taken into consideration.

Another circumstance showing the better care that the native mother takes of her children is that 79 per cent of the American-born mothers had all their children living at the time of the 1916 birth as compared with only 66 per cent of the foreign-born mothers. Altogether the alien mothers' loss exceeded that of the native mothers' by more than five in a hundred; but the greater mortality among children of the foreigner is most graphically shown in the fact that whereas three children died to every ten native mothers, six died to every ten foreign mothers.

The foreign mother's ability to rear her children does not seem commensurate with her superior fecundity. When compared with the native mother this become especially apparent, and judging from the above table, the advantage of the native mother in this respect increases proportionately with the size of the family.

As to the average number of children born to each mother, it appears that each mother of foreign nativity gives birth to about one more child than the American-born mother does, the exact figures being 3.78 for the former and 2.85 each for the latter. This, of course, only applies to the women who gave birth to children in 1916. If a census of *all* the married women were taken, together with the number of their children, it would undoubtedly be shown that the average number of children per mother is considerably less than the above numbers, but especially so in the case of native women, since it is probable that a much larger proportion of them are childless.*

*According to the report made by the Immigration Commission to the 61st Congress, 2nd Session (Document No. 282) on the Fecundity of Immigrant Women, the percentage of childless native women who were under 45 years old and who had been married from 10 to 20 years in 1910, was 13.1% while that of women of foreign parentage was only 5.7%.

Another fact of interest is that whereas 57.3 per cent of the births to native women were either the first or second child born to them, only 39.7 per cent of the births to foreign-born women were of this sequence. This may be partly accounted for by the probable greater average number of years during which the women of foreign birth had been married, due to their custom of marrying at a much earlier age than do native women.

It is rather surprising to note that there were 2,564 mothers to whom the 1916 birth represented at least the tenth child born, 1,150 of these mothers being natives, while 1,414 were aliens.

Table VI

Children Living with Native and Foreign-born White Mothers to Whom a Child Was Born in 1916

Number of Living Children in Family	Native Mothers		Foreign-born Mothers	
	Number	Per cent of total	Number	Per cent of total
1	23,864	36.8	8,906	23.5
2	16,378	25.3	8,550	22.6
3	9,991	15.4	6,720	17.8
4	5,816	9.0	5,002	13.2
5	3,641	5.6	3,438	9.1
6	2,188	3.4	2,303	6.1
7	1,323	2.0	1,384	3.7
8	792	1.2	760	2.0
9	398	.6	428	1.1
10	254	.4	208	.5
11	114	.2	98	.3
12	59	.1	41	.1
13	20	.....	15	.....
14	5	.....	1	.....
15	2	.....	.....	.....
16	2	.....	1	.....

The chief value and interest of Table VI (showing the number of mothers according to the number of *their living children*) depends upon a comparison with the section of Table V, which shows the number of mothers according to the number of children *born* to them.

The practice of midwifery and its proper control has come to be recognized in recent years by health officers as so important a matter that a certain amount of space may appropriately be given here to the subject.

Table VII

BIRTHS ATTENDED BY MIDWIVES, ACCORDING TO THE NATIVITY OF THE MOTHERS

NATIVITY OF MOTHER	Total births	BIRTHS ATTENDED BY MIDWIVES	
		Number	Per cent of total births
Native white	64,889	2,504	3.9
Foreign-born, white	37,914	14,165	37.3
England, Scotland, Wales	1,869	28	1.5
Ireland	1,879	29	1.5
Germany	2,296	633	27.6
Italy	12,998	5,276	40.6
Russia	3,665	1,174	32.0
Austria-Hungary	6,345	3,630	57.2
Poland (includes German, Austrian and Russian Poles)	4,703	3,112	66.1
Canada	2,219	44	2.0
Other foreign-born	1,940	239	12.3

The first fact made evident by Table VII is that if it were not for the foreign-born part of the population, there would be no midwife problem. Less than 4 per cent of the births to native mothers were attended by midwives, while more than 37 per cent of the births to foreign-born women were so attended.

Here again the highest percentages are found among the Italians, Russians, Austro-Hungarians and Poles, although the Germans also employ a large number of these women in preference to physicians. In contrast to these, attention is directed to the exceptionally small number of confinements of British, Irish and Canadian mothers attended by midwives. Apparently they employ midwives even less frequently than do native women, but it seems likely that the majority of the midwives attendant on the latter were employed by women of native birth who were of Italian, Russian or Austro-Hungarian parentage and with whom the custom of the native country of their parents still held considerable sway.

Table VIII is a tabulation of the 49 cities or villages, each having a population of 10,000 or more, arranged in order according to the extent to which midwifery is practiced in each and showing, at the same time. the relation of this practice to the number of German, Italian, Russian, Polish and Austro-Hungarian residents. The correlation of these two is so obvious that further commentary seems unnecessary.

Table VIII

THE PRACTICE OF MIDWIFERY IN THE CITIES AND VILLAGES OF 10,000 OR MORE INHABITANTS

City	Total births	Births Attended by Midwives		Per cent of total population comprised by Germans, Italians, Poles, Russians and Austro-Hungarians
		Number	Percentage	
Lackawanna	812	474	58.4	43.6
North Tonawanda	394	178	45.2	23.5
Amsterdam	993	438	44.1	26.3
Dunkirk	543	235	43.3	23.6
Port Chester	504	206	40.9	23.2
Buffalo	13,064	5,196	39.8	18.4
Rome	706	275	39.0	14.0
Schenectady	2,135	828	38.8	17.3
Utica	2,441	911	37.3	19.6
Yonkers	2,504	917	36.6	20.1
Mt. Vernon	891	313	35.1	16.9
Binghamton	1,508	527	34.9	9.0
Little Falls	455	145	31.9	23.0
Poughkeepsie	759	221	29.1	9.9
Auburn	854	217	25.4	11.9
Watervliet	256	55	21.5	6.4
Albany	2,283	466	20.4	10.1
New Rochelle	732	141	19.3	8.2
Cohoes	571	107	18.7	8.5
Niagara Falls	1,437	255	17.7	16.6
Ossining	224	38	17.0	14.5
Troy	1,336	222	16.6	8.0
Syracuse	3,851	587	15.2	13.4
Hudson	356	53	14.9	15.2
Rochester	6,825	948	13.9	15.9
Newburgh	533	66	12.4	7.1
Peekskill	320	36	11.3	9.2
Saratoga Springs	257	27	10.5	5.5
Olean	502	51	10.2	9.2
Oswego	572	53	9.3	7.9
Jamestown	827	88	8.2	4.2
Watertown	685	33	4.8	4.9
Rensselaer	162	5	3.1	3.4
Elmira	983	28	2.8	8.0
Ogdensburg	336	6	1.8	1.8
Kingston	469	5	1.1	8.7

Table VIII (*continued*)

THE PRACTICE OF MIDWIFERY IN THE CITIES AND VILLAGES OF 10,000 OR MORE INHABITANTS (*continued*)

City	Total births	Births Attended by Midwives		Per cent of total population comprised by Germans, Italians, Poles, Russians and Austro-Hungarians
		Number	Percentage	
Johnstown	181	1	.6	9.4
Gloversville	418	2	.5	11.3
Cortland	269	1	.4	5.6
Ithaca	341	1	.3	4.4
Corning	343	1	.3	5.6
Lockport	357	.....	.....	7.3
Middletown	285	.....	.....	5.1
Glens Falls	303	.....	.....	3.6
Hornell	291	.....	.....	3.5
Batavia	337	.....	.....	11.3
Geneva	354	.....	.....	7.1
Fulton	296	.....	.....	8.7
Plattsburg	222	.....	.....	3.0

In the final summary, therefore, it seems obvious that although the preceding tables relate to the single year of 1916 only, there is no question but that the foreign element in the population of New York State affects the general birth rate in this State to an extraordinary degree.

This particularly applies to the large number of Italians, Russians, Poles and Austro-Hungarians, the greater number of whom have settled in this country during the past fifteen years, having arrived here for the most part during early adult life, married at an early age and reared large families, the birth of each child following closely upon the preceding one. The majority of them are still in the most fertile period of life and very few of them are past the reproductive age.

Furthermore, considering the general poverty among these people, their propensity to settle in the most crowded and densely populated districts of the large industrial and manufacturing centers, that many of the women help in earning the livelihood of the family through outside work and that most of them are not only unable to read and write English, but also unable to speak it, being thereby incapable of understanding and of following the sanitary regulations, etc., it is to be

expected that their effect on the infant mortality of the State is also very considerable.

The logical conclusion to be arrived at from a study of the foregoing data is therefore manifest. It is that in all future campaigns for the improvement of birth registration or for the conservation of child life, more careful consideration must be given to parental nativity.

This should be determined beforehand in each community selected for study along these lines. It is the sine qua non of all real progress and efficiency attainable in this direction.

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